

Idaho Pesticide Management Plan (PMP) for Ground Water Protection

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) is the lead agency in developing the *Idaho Pesticide Management Plan (PMP) for Ground Water Protection (2003 Draft)*. ISDA has the authority to implement FIFRA through a cooperative working agreement with EPA and state laws and rules. Within the Division of Agricultural Resources, the agency is charged with the registration of pesticide products, education and licensing of applicators, ground and surface water protection, and enforcement to ensure that pesticides are properly used for human and environmental protection.

The Idaho PMP outlines the processes involved with protecting ground water from pesticides. The PMP describes the roles of each agency, and how these authorities and programs will be coordinated. The document is viewed as a *Generic PMP* and will be utilized by the ISDA to prevent and respond to any potential or actual pesticide threats to ground water. The document also describes when ISDA will create Chemical Specific PMPs for pesticides that may be of most significant concern.

The core aspects of the PMP are: ground water assessment and planning, ground water monitoring, prevention actions, and response to ground water contamination. Other important components include enforcement mechanisms, public awareness and participation, information dissemination, and records and reporting progress. An emphasis will be placed on information and education, applicator training, monitoring, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and potentially enforcement.

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) *Pesticides and Ground-Water Strategy (1991)* was developed to describe the policy framework in which the EPA intends to address risks of ground water contamination by pesticides. The need for such a policy emanated from evidence that pesticide use can lead to contamination of ground water. Pesticides have been found in ground water in many states, including Idaho. The general goal of the *Strategy* is to manage the use of pesticides in order to protect human health and prevent degradation of ground water resources.

On June 26, 1996 the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) submitted to the federal register the *Pesticides and Ground Water State Management Plan Regulation; Proposed Rule*. The draft rule would require chemical specific plans to be written for Atrazine, Cyanazine, Simazine, Alachlor, and Metolachlor. This rule may become final in the near future. ISDA will be finalizing the Idaho Generic PMP and developing state draft rules simultaneously to complete official state's protection processes.